DOLLS AND THEIR EARLY SOCIOLOGICAL IMPACT ON BLACK CHILDREN

Narrative: *Dolls have always had an impact on children of all ethnic origins. The impact on Black children, however, is the object of my research. The psychological and sociological aspects of this topic are proving to be an eye-opening awareness on the aspects of segregation, access to dolls, and racism which requires examination.*

As a youngster I had many dolls of color which was the norm during my childhood. Throughout my life I studied as thoroughly as I could the various productions, eras, makers and manufacturers of various dolls. I frequented the Rosalie Whylie Museum in Bellevue to absorb as much as I could of the vast collection. I traveled to shows to pick up bargains. However, it wasn't until I started at the University of Washington in American Ethic Studies that this avocation seemed to blend smoothly into my topic of research.

This topic is worth exploring not only because of past history but for the future as well. Dolls present the issue of race past and present: How were the dolls used, who had them, how were they acquired (second hand from white children?) They can help examine segregation. They can assist in dissecting childhood. Were they available everywhere or just selected areas. What was the impact decades ago of the Minstrel Doll?

Texts consulted are books in my personal collection. Web research has produced

information on types of dolls and associated articles. K.B. Toys and Toys R Us for